

News in Brief

Andre Matteson, once editor of the Chicago Times, died at his home in Highland Park, Chicago.  
There are 23,000 Indian children in school, 62,516 Indians who can speak English, and 143,974 Indian who wear civilized dress.  
King Edward, who is establishing the most friendly relations with the Irish people, proposes to make another visit to Ireland.  
Many Wisconsin democrats favor E. C. Wall of Milwaukee, former national committee man, as a candidate for the presidency.  
It cost \$318,366,047 to run New York City during 1903. During the six years since its consolidation the city's total expenses have been \$1,394,252,382.  
There are 190,227 professional beggars in Spain. Begging is recognized as a legitimate business, and the cities demand a certain portion of the alms collected.  
Emperor William talked into a photograph at the request of United States psychologists, and the records will be preserved at Washington and Harvard university.  
Representative citizens of Bismarck and Mandan, N. D., appeared before the secretary of the interior to urge the establishment of an Indian training school in that vicinity.  
Kentucky democrats will erect a handsome monument to the late Governor Goebel, who was killed in 1900 at Frankfort. It will be of bronze, with a pedestal of Vermont granite.  
The Pennsylvania Railroad company has arranged to borrow \$50,000,000 from a syndicate, the money, it is said, being intended chiefly for improving the main line from New York to Chicago.  
Five hundred operatives at the Frank Diesel branch of the American Can company at Chicago struck, bringing up the plant. Reduction in wages was the cause. The plant is picketed by girls.  
It was announced that the gift of \$50,000 by John Hays Hammond of New York, the mining engineer, for a metallurgical laboratory at Yale, has been increased by Mr. Hammond to \$100,000.  
The agricultural appropriation bill, reported to the house, carries a total of \$5,711,240, an increase of \$233,000 over the current law. Only two salaries are raised by the bill, and these only temporarily.  
A charter was granted at Topeka to the Arkansas, Missouri & Kansas railroad company, capitalized at \$1,500,000, to build a line southeast from Chanute, Kas. Boston capital is being raised.  
Two masked men bound and gagged Fred Strider, a farmer residing near Clive, a small town five miles west of Des Moines, while he was milking, and secured \$1,500, proceeds of a live stock sale.  
Samuel J. Kitson, the Boston sculptor, has just completed in marble a bust of Archbishop Williams, which is to be placed in a niche beside the image of the late Pope Leo XIII at the Catholic university in Washington.  
The senate committee authorized Senator Nelson to report favorably on his bill to provide for the construction of roads in Alaska, for the maintenance of schools and support of insane and destitute persons in the territory.  
A dispatch received in Vienna from Sofia, Bulgaria, says the chiefs of the Macedonian revolutionary organization in the interior have sent out circulars to the members of the organization, ordering renewal of the insurrection.  
President Samuel Gompers of the American Federation of Labor has presented arguments to the house committee on labor in favor of the Sibley bill prohibiting the purchase or use by the federal government of prison-made goods.  
A dispatch to the Central News agency from Tokio says that the newspapers there publish telegrams saying that 20,000 Russian troops have been concentrated in the Yalu valley with the probable intention of seizing North Korea.  
Sixto Lopez, the well known Filipino agitator, whose unfriendly disposition toward American rule in the Philippines has been exhibited upon occasions in the past, has refused to take the oath of allegiance. He will be promptly deported.  
Representative Martin of South Dakota introduced a resolution in congress requesting the secretary of commerce and labor to investigate the causes of the low prices of beef cattle since July 1, 1903, and the unusually large margins between the prices of beef cattle and the selling price of fresh beef, and whether these conditions have resulted from a trust or combination.  
The statement is made that 100 settlers have been killed in German Southwest Africa during the present troubles there.  
The United States transport Sumner sailed from Santiago with the Seventh and Nineteenth batteries of artillery.  
The state department announced the receipt of information that Japan has called its subjects from the Yalu district in Korea into Seoul.  
An appropriation of \$5,000 has been asked for to cover damages to private property by the discharge of heavy army artillery.  
Walter Wellman writes that the ratification of the Panama canal treaty before the end of this month is the present program in the senate and that opposition is virtually at an end.  
William R. Hearst will have a majority of the Illinois delegation in the democratic national convention.  
Senator Spooner announced in the senate that the republican party does not intend to enter into a revision of the tariff at this session of congress.  
The funeral of William C. Whitney, American naval vessels were ordered to display flags at half mast.

THE FIRST SHOT

IT IS FIRED BY JAPAN IN THE EASTERN WAR.

RUSSIAN SHIPS ARE DISEALED

Warships of the Mikado Attack Those of the Czar Near Port Arthur, Putting Them Out of Service—How British Regard Matters.

CHEE FOO—The Japanese fleet attacked Port Arthur at midnight on Monday.  
Two Russian battleships and one Russian cruiser were disabled by torpedoes.  
The two battleships disabled are the Poltava and the Charovitch. The disabled armored cruiser Boyaim and the grounded battleships block the entrance to the harbor, preventing gunboats from going out and battleships and cruisers from going in and getting coal. Besides this, Japan has the Russian gunboats Vavrig and Koretz caught at Chemulpo. They were bound for Vladivostok.  
The Japan fleet was under command of Vice Admiral Togo, and four fast cruisers, the Chitose, Shikishima, Yamashima and Iwate, circled outside, drawing the fire of the Russians. They then joined the main fleet and all went in to attack the armored cruisers in the Japanese fleet, which consisted of two divisions, were the Mikasa, the flagship; the first class battleships Asahi, Fuji, Inashima, Shikashi, Ma. Matsuda and the dispatch boat Tatsu-ma. The second division of the fleet, under command of Admiral Kamimura, on the flagship Idzumo, consisted of the armored cruisers Yakuma, Asama and Iwate.  
When seen by the steamer Foo Chow Tuesday morning the fast cruisers were circling in a radius of six miles. No torpedo boats were seen and it is probable that they left the vicinity after the torpedo attack of Monday night. The Russian fleet outside of the harbor consisted of the battleships Petropavlovsk, flagship; Poroswet, sub-flagship; Pabieda, Poltava, Charovitch, Retzivan and Sobastopol, and the cruisers Novik, Boyarin, Bayara, Dianu, Palada, Askold and Angara. The disabled battleships are inside Forts Huan Ching Shan and Chi Kwan Shan. The cruiser is outside, but within range of the forts.  
LONDON—The naval men in London regarded the result of Japan's first attack with torpedo boats on the Russian fleet off Port Arthur as being a staggering one. They pointed out that Viceroy Alexieff's reference to "mines" obviously meant "torpedoes," and said that if the Russian vessels have been struck by "white-head torpedoes" they probably have been sunk or are resting on the mud in Port Arthur, in any case hopelessly out of action for a considerable time.

RELIEF BILL FOR BALTIMORE.

Representative Emerich Offers Measure Appropriating \$1,000,000.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE

BALTIMORE THE VICTIM OF A GREAT CONFLAGRATION.  
SEVENTY-FIVE BLOCKS BURNED  
The Loss on Buildings Alone is \$150,000,000—That on the Destruction of Goods Will Doubtless Amount to as Much More.

BALTIMORE—One of the greatest if not the greatest fire in the history of American cities is now raging in the city of Baltimore. It started at about 11 o'clock Sunday forenoon in one of the large dry goods stores in the heart of the city and at the present writing it is as far from being under control as at any time since its inception. All has been said by the fire departments of Washington Philadelphia and Wilmington, but the combined efforts of the firemen are making no impression on the flames.  
Dynamite is being used to stop its spread, buildings in its path being blown up in the hope of destroying the food for the flames. There are being driven, however, by a fierce gale and burning brands are being scattered all over the city and constantly starting fires in new places. There appears little hope of stopping the progress of the fire until it has swept everything in its path.  
Over 400 streams from fire engines have been playing on the flames, but for all the apparent good they have done the heroic work of the firemen might just as well not have been done.  
Owing to the nature of the buildings involved the fire has not spread with the rapidity of some conflagrations and consequently so far as known no lives have been lost. The immense warehouses, stores and office buildings, however, have been reduced to ruins.  
The estimates of the losses vary widely, and, in fact, it is an impossibility at this time to make an intelligent estimate. The estimates given, however, range all the way from \$40,000,000 to \$200,000,000. This latter figure is \$19,000,000 in excess of the loss from the great Chicago fire of October 9, 1871.  
LATER—After a battle lasting from 11 o'clock Sunday morning until sundown Monday, the firemen succeeded in stopping the great conflagration which swept through the heart of the city of Baltimore. The flames swept everything before them until they reached the small river which flows through the city. Here the fire tug Cataract and the engine companies sent from New York made a stand, and by the foothold on the lumber yard and by the most heroic efforts succeeded in preventing the fire from gaining a foothold on the lumber yard on the further bank. The various companies then commenced to fight their way into the fire except area from every side and the hundreds of streams soon had the fire subdued all around the outskirts of the burned area. Though the ruins in the heart of the tract are blazing fiercely, there is no danger of their again gaining the mastery.  
The estimates of the loss vary greatly, ranging all the way from \$100,000,000 to \$200,000,000, but no one is willing to make an estimate of the insurance.  
Unlike the great Chicago fire, the only one with which it can be compared, the residence district of the city was not invaded by the flames, and there will be no physical suffering except, perhaps, that food supplies may be scarce for a few days, owing to the destruction of it, the great commission and produce houses.  
The city is under martial law, and no one except those who have business within the lines is admitted to the district covered by the fire. The best of order has been preserved throughout, and at all times the police and military have had the situation well in hand and not a single case of looting has been reported. The local police have been reinforced by details from Washington and Philadelphia.  
With the fire under control, there comes a little rest for the weary firemen and late at night some of the companies were sent to their homes, while others and those from outside cities keep up the work.

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JAPAN AND RUSSIA BREAK OFF NEGOTIATIONS.  
LEGATIONS ARE CALLED HOME

KILLED BY A SHOT.

Rebels Fire on Americans, Killing the Engineer.

JAPAN WOULD NOT WAIT FOR RUSSIA'S LONG DELAYED NOTE—IMPERIAL GOVERNMENT SENDS MESSAGES—TELEGRAMS MINISTERS AN OFFICIAL NOTICE.  
ST. PETERSBURG—Count Lamardoff, the Russian foreign minister, has officially informed the Russian representatives that Japan has decided to break off all negotiations with Russia and to withdraw the minister and whole Japanese legation staff from St. Petersburg. The Russian foreign minister has thereupon ordered the Russian minister, Baron de Rosen and his staff to leave Tokio.  
The official messenger publishes the following circular telegram dated February 6. It has been sent out by the Russian foreign minister to the representatives of the Russian government abroad.  
"Acting under instructions from his government the Japanese minister at the imperial court has presented a note which informs the imperial government of the decision of Japan to break off further negotiations and recall her minister and the entire staff at the Japanese legation.  
"In consequence of this his imperial majesty has been pleased to order that the Russian minister at Tokio, with the entire staff of the imperial mission, shall leave the capital of Japan without delay. Such an attitude on the part of the Tokio government, which has not even awaited the answer of the imperial government, which was sent off during the last few days, throws the whole responsibility for the consequences which may arise from a rupture of diplomatic negotiations between two empires on Japan."  
"The severance of diplomatic relations between Russia and Japan appears to be only a step toward war, although when the ministers of Russia and Japan withdrew their respective posts quick and decisive action is expected. When the minister for foreign affairs, Kuro-mura, on Saturday notified Baron de Rosen, the Russian minister of Japan, determination to sever diplomatic relations he is reported to have declared to him that Japan is tired of Russia's delays, evasions and insincerity and has decided to take independent action for the conservation of Japan's oriental interests.  
"During the final negotiations Japan's repeated requests for answers were treated in a most unsatisfactory manner. Japan waited until convinced that it was useless to wait longer and has now ended the discussion. The indications are that there will be no formal declaration of war."  
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SALT LAKE CITY—A \$50,000,000 thirty-year 5 per cent mortgage bond was placed on record here Thursday by the Western Pacific company, a concern incorporated in California for the purpose of building and operating a line of railway between San Francisco and Salt Lake.  
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Bell Company Loses Suit.  
BOSTON—The American Bell Telephone company is ordered by Judge Colt of the United States circuit court to give an accounting to the Western Union Telephone company, the successful plaintiff in a damage suit involving millions of dollars. Judge Colt has also appointed Everett W. Burdett special master to take charge of the company and secure all evidence that may be presented. The suit was brought to recover royalties in the American Bell company on certain inventions.  
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TO AMEND ANTI-TRUST LAW.

Would Empower United States Attorneys to Enforce Act.

NEWSPAPERS IN BAD SHAPE.

Temporary Arrangements for Getting Out Editions.

WASHINGTON—Representative Hearst (N. Y.) introduced a bill to "empower United States attorneys without the direction of the attorney general to enforce the act to protect trade and commerce against unlawful restraints and monopolies."  
The bill amends the Sherman anti-trust law to read as follows in section 4:  
"The several circuit courts of the United States are hereby vested with jurisdiction to prevent and restrain violations of this act, and it shall be the duty of the several district attorneys of the United States in their respective districts to institute proceedings in equity to prevent and restrain such violations. Such proceedings may be by way of petition, setting forth the cause and praying that such violations shall be enjoined or otherwise prohibited.  
"When the parties complained of shall have been duly notified of such petition, the court shall proceed to the hearing and determination of the case, and pending such petition and before final decree the court may at any time make such temporary restraining order or prohibition as shall be deemed just in the premises, but nothing in this act or in the acts of which it is amendatory shall be so construed as to apply to trade unions or other organizations of labor, or organized to deal with hours of labor, wages or other conditions under which labor is to be performed."  
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BALTIMORE, Md.—The newspaper situation in Baltimore is temporarily arranged as follows:  
The Sun will use its job printing plant which was outside the fire lines. The Herald is being set by hand in the office of the Carlisle Mirror, and will be printed on the presses of the Evening World, which was also out of the burned district. The American has established temporary quarters in Eutaw street, and the Evening News has headquarters in the offices occupied some years ago by the Herald at Eutaw and Baltimore streets, and will send their matrices to the Philadelphia Press, the copy being forwarded by wire and special messenger. The German Correspondent is getting out its morning edition at the offices of the World.  
DIPLOMATIC BILL PASSES.  
Carries Nearly \$2,000,000—Several Political Speeches Follow.  
WASHINGTON—The amendment of Wednesday was completely lacking in the proceedings of the house Thursday. The principal feature of the day was the rivalry between republican leaders for the honor of moving an adjournment.  
The diplomatic bill, carrying \$1,955,000, was passed without amendment. Everything but the bill was discussed during its consideration.  
Mr. Morrill (Pa.) led with an argument for some system of building up the American merchant marine. A democratic political speech by Mr. Hamlin of Missouri followed and received a brief reply from Mr. Fallor of Illinois. Mr. Lind of Minnesota spoke for Canadian reciprocity.  
RUSSIA IS TO STAND FIRM.  
No Concession is to Be Made to the Japanese.  
LONDON—English correspondents in St. Petersburg refer to an exceptional honor which has been accorded the American press. The correspondent of the Times in St. Petersburg, who considers war inevitable, declares that the czar's hesitation has been overcome and that Russia will make no concession. He says:  
"Up to the present time not a line of information or apparently a word of inspiration has been given the Russian press on these serious negotiations, although the American press has been honored with the granting of an audience to the czar of the representative of a trans-Atlantic news agency."  
FIND BODIES OF THE BARKERS.  
Had Been Shot and Killed and Then Buried in a Cattle Shed.  
INVALE, Neb.—Great excitement prevails in this community over the discovery of the bodies of Dan Barker and wife, who were murdered last Sunday night. The bodies were found in a shallow grave in a cattle shed, clothed only in their sleeping garments. Bullet from a revolver which had pierced the man and his wife told the story of the gruesome affair. There were two bullet holes in Barker's neck and breast and one in Mrs. Barker's breast.  
Frank Barker, the murdered man's brother, is held in jail suspected of the crime. Although he strenuously denies his guilt, circumstantial evidence points very strongly to him and it is feared that he will be lynched by the infuriated citizens. The sheriff of Webster county is exercising every precaution to protect his prisoner.  
Exhibits at World's Fair.  
ST. LOUIS—The combined value of the exhibits in the ten principal exhibit palaces of the World's fair is estimated by E. S. Hoch, assistant to Directors of Exhibits Staff, at \$72,500,000. This estimate is based on statistics in the division of exhibits as to the amount and nature of the exhibits which will be installed in each building. This does not include the display in the fine arts palace nor the contents of the various government structures nor concessions that will be of an exhibit nature.  
State May Aid Consumptives.  
FORT DODGE—A bill was introduced in the senate by Senators Young and Wright asking that \$10,000 be appropriated by the state for the use of trustees of the charity fund of the Boulder Lodge sanitarium for consumptives at Fort Dodge. The money is desired for the purpose of keeping 120 patients here one year, by which time the sanitarium will have passed the experimental stage and it can be determined if the support of such an institution would be a benefit to the state.

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